

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-67 (canceled).

68. (New) A process for preparing a microencapsulated pigment, which comprises adding a polymerizable surfactant having a hydrophilic group, a hydrophobic group and a polymerizable group, a polymerization initiator and an aqueous medium to a wet pigment, and conducting emulsion polymerization to encapsulate pigment particles with a polymer.

69. (New) The process described in claim 68 , wherein the pigment constituting the pigment particles is carbon black or an organic pigment.

70. (New) The process described in claim 68, wherein the polymerizable group of the polymerizable surfactant is a group selected from the group consisting of a vinyl group, an allyl group, an acryloyl group, a methacryloyl group, a propenyl group, a vinylidene group and a vinylene group.

71. (New) The process described in claim 68, wherein the hydrophilic group of the polymerizable surfactant is an anionic group selected from the group consisting of a sulfonic acid group, a sulfinic acid group, a carboxyl group, a carbonyl group and salts of these groups, and/or a nonionic group selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group and an oxyethylene group.

72. (New) The process described in claim 68, wherein the hydrophobic group of the polymerizable surfactant is a group selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups, aryl groups

and combinations thereof.

73. (New) A microencapsulated pigment obtained by the process according to claim 68.

74. (New) The microencapsulated pigment described in claim 73, which has an aspect ratio of 1.0 to 1.3, and a Zingg index of 1.0 to 1.3.

75. (New) An aqueous dispersion containing the microencapsulated pigment described in claim 73.

76. (New) A process for preparing a microencapsulated pigment, which comprises adding a polymerizable surfactant having a hydrophilic group, a hydrophobic group and a polymerizable group, a comonomer copolymerizable with the polymerizable surfactant, a polymerization initiator and an aqueous medium to a wet pigment, and conducting emulsion polymerization to encapsulate pigment particles with a copolymer.

77. (New) The process described in claim 76, wherein the comonomer is a hydrophilic monomer and/or a hydrophobic monomer.

78. (New) The process described in claim 77, wherein the hydrophobic monomer has at least a hydrophobic group and a polymerizable group in its structure, and the hydrophobic group is selected from the group consisting of aliphatic hydrocarbon groups, alicyclic hydrocarbon groups and aromatic hydrocarbon groups.

79. (New) The process described in claim 77, wherein the hydrophilic monomer has at least a

hydrophilic group and a polymerizable group in its structure, and the hydrophilic group is selected from the group consisting of a sulfonic acid group, a sulfinic acid group, a carboxyl group, a carbonyl group, salts of these groups, a hydroxyl group, an oxyethylene group, an amido group and an amino group.

80.(New) The process described in claim 76, wherein the polymerizable group of the comonomer is a radically polymerizable unsaturated hydrocarbon group selected from the group consisting of a vinyl group, an allyl group, an acryloyl group, a methacryloyl group, a propenyl group, a vinylidene group and a vinylene group.

81. (New) An ink for ink jet recording containing an aqueous dispersion of a microencapsulated pigment in which pigment particles are encapsulated with a polymer,

wherein the microencapsulated pigment is formed by adding a polymerizable surfactant having a hydrophilic group, a hydrophobic group and a polymerizable group, a polymerization initiator and an aqueous medium to a wet pigment, and conducting emulsion polymerization, and

wherein the aqueous dispersion has been subjected to purification treatment, and the concentration of unreacted polymerizable surfactant after the purification treatment is 50000 ppm or less based on the aqueous component in the aqueous dispersion.

82. (New) The ink according to claim 81, comprising a water-soluble organic solvent containing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of glycerol, an alkyl ether of a polyhydric alcohol and a 1,2-alkyldiol.

83. (New) The ink according to claim 81, further comprising a solid wetting agent in an amount

of 3% to 20% by weight based on a total weight of the ink.

84. (New) The ink according to claim 83, wherein the solid wetting agent comprises trimethylolpropane, 1,2,6-hexanetriol or both.

85. (New) The ink according to claim 81, further comprising a saccharide.

86. (New) The ink according to claim 81, wherein the wet pigment to which the polymerizable surfactant, polymerization initiator and aqueous medium is added contains water in an amount of 40 to 80% by weight.

87. (New) The ink according to claim 81, wherein the microencapsulated pigment comprises particles having an average particle size of 150 nm or less as measured by a laser light scattering process.

88. (New) An ink for ink jet recording containing an aqueous dispersion of a microencapsulated pigment in which pigment particles are encapsulated with a polymer, wherein the microencapsulated pigment is formed by adding a polymerizable surfactant having a hydrophilic group, a hydrophobic group and a polymerizable group, a comonomer copolymerizable with the polymerizable surfactant, a polymerization initiator and an aqueous medium to a wet pigment, and conducting emulsion polymerization, and wherein the aqueous dispersion has been subjected to purification treatment, and the total concentration of unreacted polymerizable surfactant and comonomer after the purification treatment is 50000 ppm or less based on the aqueous component in the above-mentioned aqueous dispersion.

89. (New) The ink according to claim 88, comprising a water-soluble organic solvent containing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of glycerol, an alkyl ether of a polyhydric alcohol and a 1,2-alkyldiol.
90. (New) The ink according to claim 88, further comprising a solid wetting agent in an amount of 3% to 20% by weight based on a total weight of the ink.
91. (New) The ink according to claim 90, wherein the solid wetting agent comprises trimethylolpropane, 1,2,6-hexanetriol or both.
92. (New) The ink according to claim 88, further comprising a saccharide.
93. (New) The ink according to claim 88, wherein the wet pigment to which the polymerizable surfactant, comonomer, polymerization initiator and aqueous medium is added contains water in an amount of 40 to 80% by weight.
94. (New) The ink according to claim 88, wherein the microencapsulated pigment comprises particles having an average particle size of 150 nm or less as measured by a laser light scattering process.
95. (New) An ink for ink jet recording comprising an aqueous dispersion containing a microencapsulated pigment produced by a process which comprises adding a polymerizable surfactant having a hydrophilic group, a hydrophobic group and a polymerizable group, a polymerization initiator and an aqueous medium to a wet pigment, and conducting emulsion polymerization to encapsulate pigment particles with a polymer.

96. (New) The ink according to claim 95, wherein the microencapsulated pigment has an aspect ratio of 1.0 to 1.3, and a Zingg index of 1.0 to 1.3.
97. (New) The ink according to claim 95, comprising a water-soluble organic solvent containing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of glycerol, an alkyl ether of a polyhydric alcohol and a 1,2-alkyldiol.
98. (New) The ink according to claim 95, further comprising a solid wetting agent in an amount of 3% to 20% by weight based on a total weight of the ink.
99. (New) The ink according to claim 98, wherein the solid wetting agent comprises trimethylolpropane, 1,2,6-hexanetriol or both.
100. (New) The ink according to claim 95, further comprising a saccharide.
101. (New) The ink according to claim 95, wherein the wet pigment to which the polymerizable surfactant, polymerization initiator and aqueous medium is added contains water in an amount of 40 to 80% by weight.
102. (New) The ink according to claim 95, wherein the microencapsulated pigment comprises particles having an average particle size of 150 nm or less as measured by a laser light scattering process.
103. (New) An ink for ink jet recording comprising an aqueous dispersion containing a microencapsulated pigment produced by a process comprising adding a polymerizable surfactant

having a hydrophilic group, a hydrophobic group and a polymerizable group, a comonomer copolymerizable with the polymerizable surfactant, a polymerization initiator and an aqueous medium to a wet pigment, and conducting emulsion polymerization to encapsulate pigment particles with a copolymer.

104. (New) The ink according to claim 103, wherein the microencapsulated pigment has an aspect ratio of 1.0 to 1.3, and a Zingg index of 1.0 to 1.3.

105. (New) The ink according to claim 103, comprising a water-soluble organic solvent containing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of glycerol, an alkyl ether of a polyhydric alcohol and a 1,2-alkyldiol.

106. (New) The ink according to claim 103, further comprising a solid wetting agent in an amount of 3% to 20% by weight based on a total weight of the ink.

107. (New) The ink according to claim 106, wherein the solid wetting agent comprises trimethylolpropane, 1,2,6-hexanetriol or both.

108. (New) The ink according to claim 103, further comprising a saccharide.

109. (New) The ink according to claim 103, wherein the wet pigment to which the polymerizable surfactant, comonomer, polymerization initiator and aqueous medium is added contains water in an amount of 40 to 80% by weight.

110. (New) The ink according to claim 103, wherein the microencapsulated pigment comprises particles having an average particle size of 150 nm or less as measured by a laser light scattering process.